

The OVH ARC Newsletter
OLE VIRGINIA HAMS™ AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108
OVH FM Repeaters - 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+ & 443.500+
OVH D-STAR Repeaters - W4OVH - 146.865- & 442.5125+

Web Site at <http://w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

September 2014

Next Meeting: Monday, September 15, 2014

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello to all and I hope this message and this Newsletter finds you all healthy and well as the summer weather winds up.

The OVH's regular meeting this month - and from now on until further notice here - will be at the Manassas City Public Works building, 8500 Public Works Drive [near the intersection of Portner Ave. and Breedon Ave.], Manassas, Virginia beginning at the usual time - 7:30 pm. I hope to see everyone there at the upcoming meeting!

Mark / WA4KFZ will again be teaching a Technician Licensing class on four Tuesday evenings, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, on 9/30, 10/7, 10/14 and 10/28, at the OVH's new regular meeting location, to be followed shortly thereafter by a VEC license exam session. A flyer for these Technician licensing classes is on the last page of this Newsletter. Make some copies and give them, with other pertinent information, to your friends and colleagues who may be interested in getting a ham radio license or know some kids who may be interested. Attendees at Mark's classes always have a high pass rate for the exam.

As a reminder we looking for a Chairperson to lead the 2014 OVH Field Day event. If you have any questions as to what the job entails John / KG4NXT has done a great job with this many times and likely can answer any questions you may have. Also, remember that the local JOTA event will take place on Saturday, October 18th. More detail in this newsletter.

Also, I'd like to congratulate the new members that were voted in last meeting: John / KK4TCE, David / KK4ZUU, Greg / KM4CCG and Peter / KM4CJI. Welcome to the club.

Continue enjoying the remaining summer and I hope to see each of you at the meeting.

73 Justin KJ4LAS



Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President: Justin Anderle	KJ4LAS	571-221-3423
Vice Pres: Clarence Meese	K4CNM	791-6424
Secretary: Ron Zuber	N4RDZ	206-423-0602
Treasurer: Terry Erlacher	KC4DV	571-292-1490

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdell	W4HJL	369-2877
Arthur Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Charlie Dale	WA4YGI	361-3091
Bob Zaepfel	K4HJF	282-2451

WEEKLY FM REPEATER NET COORDINATOR

Thurs - 8:00 PM Local Time	JOHN / KG4NXT	257-3566
----------------------------	---------------	----------

HAMFEST 2014

Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
-------	-------	--------------

FIELD DAY 2014

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
------	--------	----------

CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
--------	-------	----------

EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
------	--------	----------

CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Meola	KI4AZX	393-6681
-------------	--------	----------

ARES - EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	703-628-3868
		email: KG4GIY@ARRL.NET
Prince William County ARES website		http://pwcares.org

FINANCE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490

GENERATORS

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
---------	--------	----------

WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
------	------	----------

EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
------------	--------	----------

JOTA

Scott	KB8NUM	365-2642
-------	--------	----------

LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
-----	-------	----------

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	KJ4FDK	361-4885
--------	--------	----------

NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
------	------	----------

NEWSLINE FOR THE WEEKLY NET

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
---------	--------	----------

PROGRAMS

Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
-------	-------	--------------

QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
-------	-------	----------

REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Russ	WB4HHN	368-6435

W4OVH / W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
-------	-------	----------

SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
-----	-------	----------

SUNSHINE

Theresa (Acting)	KG4TVM	257-3566
------------------	--------	----------

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Bill	N4SV	590-9562
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
David	KG4GIY	628-3868

All telephone numbers listed above are for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted. This is the official monthly publication of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc., a §501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio. Copyright © 2014 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Monday. In July, 2014, the monthly meeting will be held at the Central Community Library, 8601 Mathis Avenue, Manassas, Virginia. Members, prospective members and other interested persons are invited to attend. Local information can also be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.970, 224.660, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz or D-Star repeaters on 146.865 and 442.5125+ MHz. Up to date information about OVH activities and its meetings is also available during the OVH's nets on its FM Repeaters each Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. or on 80 meters (3710 KHz) LSB each Sunday night at 7:00 p.m. (8:00 pm in Summer) or through the OVH's web site at <http://w4ovh.net>

Articles and quotations in the OVH Times newsletter may be reprinted if credit is given to the OVH ARC and any other noted source. Proposed materials for publication including pictures, articles, letters to the editor, classified ads, notes about specific errors, complaints or the like are solicited from all readers. Forward such items to the OVH Times Newsletter Editor: PAUL@W4ZB.COM as soon as available at any time, but the cutoff deadline for the OVH Times each month (usually the second Monday of the month) may preclude publication/correction until the following month.

Approx. Circulation - 170.

Last Rev: 07/16/2014

Sunshine Corner:

Happy birthday to Gus / N4MLE, Al / KB4BHB, Maury / W4HYB, Ron / N4RDZ, Gary / WG4ARC, Mark / WA4KFZ, Jim / W4HJH and Floyd / K4ROG..

JOTA – Jamboree on the Air for the Boy Scouts will take place from October 17th thru 19th this year. Locally, there will be scouts and stations set up at the Braemar Pool and Clubhouse on Iona Sound Drive on Saturday, October 18th. Set up starts at 7:30 am and the event will kick off at 9:00 am. Last year we had a great turnout and a great time, the number of scouts and parents that came out was tremendous! If you can lend a hand great, stop by just to observe or listen on the radio and answer a CQ any and all participation would be appreciated.

Looking forward to having our regular OVH monthly meetings in the new location, hope to see you there. Manassas City Public Works building, 8500 Public Works Drive [near the intersection of Portner Ave. and Breedon Ave.]

The first Hamfest Committee Meeting for the 2015 Manassas Hamfest as announced on the email reflector will have just taken place by the time you read this; however, the next Hamfest Committee meeting will be in early October – watch the OVH's email reflector for more information. All members are welcome to attend these meeting; new ideas are always welcome. For more information –contact Terry / KC4DV.

I'm happy to announce that I'm a grandma again to my fourth grandchild, Jacob, born on September 4th to my daughter Amy and son-in-law Tom.

Congrats to Wayne N7QLK on his new job. Best of luck to you Wayne.

Lillian / KK4MXY who has just started in the 12th grade at Battlefield High School with a heavy load of AP courses also had a very busy summer: 10 days in Costa Rica with her church group from the Sudley Methodist Church, two and a half weeks in Australia, including skiing (it was winter there) while visiting relatives, and much of the rest of the summer at the Tailwheels ground and flight school in Lakeland Florida working on her Private Pilot license, not quite finished yet, but she returns to Florida this coming weekend for her final ground and flight review and then the final tests with an FAA Examiner. Wish her luck! She reports that her ham radio experiences, including especially OVH Field Day operating, made the radio work while flying very easy for her to learn!

Please keep John / WA1STU's family in your thoughts; his brother-in-law was in a very serious motorcycle crash, and has a long road of recovery in front of him.

If your birthday is this month and you don't see your name, please send me an email with the date, I need to update my records. Also, if you have any news for the Sunshine Corner, good or bad, please send me an email kg4tvm@hotmail.com or call me at 703-257-3566.

Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting August 18, 2014:

Justin / KJ4LAS called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Meeting was held at the Central Community Library at 8601 Mathis Avenue in Manassas, Virginia, a temporary meeting place for the OVH regular meeting.

All present stated their names and call signs. There were 27 members and 6 guests.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the July meeting were approved as read and amended, motion by Mark / WA4KFZ and second by Butch / W4HJL.

Treasurer's Report – Terry / KC4DV gave the report, motion by Terry / WA5NTI and second by Art / W1CRO approved as presented.

Membership – Luther / KJ4FDK read in Mary Lou / KK4GOW. The membership voted in John / KK4TCE, David / KK4ZUU, Greg / KM4CCG, and Peter / KM4CJI unanimously.

ARES – No Report

Repeaters – Keith / KM4AA, all is working well at this time.

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ – Mark received a certificate for his help in the 2012-2013 4H program.

Classes are still scheduled for October. More information to follow.

Scholarship – Jim Parsons / W4JTP not present but he will continue to be chairman next year.

Hamfest – Terry / KC4DV reported that the first planning meeting of the 2015 Manassas Hamfest will be September 2nd at the Red Hot and Blue, 8366 Sudley Rd, Manassas, VA 20109. [Editors note: this date was changed via the email reflector to September 10th, same place and time.] Everyone is welcome to meet for dinner at 6:00 pm and the meeting will start at 7:00 pm.

Field Day – John / KG4NXT requested a volunteer to take on the Field Day chairmanship for next year. Contact John for more information.

Sunshine Corner – Theresa / KG4TVM wished everyone with a birthday in August and September a happy birthday.

Web Sites – Paul / W4ZB reported that the web pages and web sites are working well. Please forward any suggestions, etc. via email.

4-H – Terry / WA5NTI reported that a fun time was had by all at the ham radio demonstration station during the Prince William County Fair at the Fairgrounds. “Fruitful” was mentioned. Kristin / NoCall said no after action with Linda yet but it will be “all positive”. It would be nice to get more hands on activities for attendees next year. Clarence / K4CNM thanked everyone who showed up to help. “We usually didn’t have folks stop long enough to show off the radios.” He said we only have a few moments to capture the attention of the visitors. There were 95 digital contacts and 85 sideband contacts made. There were 860 lookups on QRZ.com. Terry said the pamphlet was really well done. Headband sales were \$207. That money is to be used to buy supplies for 4H ham projects in the future. Finally Terry showed a couple of short movie clips taken at the fair.

Old Business – None

New Business – Selection of new meeting location. Of all the places listed it was decided by a vote of 24 yes votes to zero no votes to use the Manassas Public Works Building just off Portner Avenue.

Cont'd on next page

50-50 collected \$20.00 and paid out \$10.00 to the winner and \$10 went to the club.

Terry / KC4DV presented a video on the Marconi station and a spark gap transmitter

Note again: the September OVH regular meeting will be September 15, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at the Manassas City Public Works meeting room, 8500 Public Works Drive [just off Portner Ave], Manassas, Virginia. Watch the OVH email reflector for more information to follow. You can use Mapquest, Google Maps, etc. to assist you in finding the new location.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Terry / WA5NTI and second by Mark / WA4KFZ. All voted to approve. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

October 26, 2014, Sunday - Mason-Dixon Hamfest, Westminster, Maryland, sponsored by the Carroll County Amateur Radio Club. more info at <http://www.qis.net/~k3pzn/hamfest.html>

SPECIAL LOCAL JOTA (BOY SCOUT HAM RADIO) EVENT

October 18, 2014, Saturday, setup begins at 7:30 am, operating begins at 9:00 am, location: 12300 Iona Sound Drive, Bristow, Virginia at the covered Pavillion. Equipment and antennas: whatever the individual operators bring and set up. There is 120V AC electric power at the Pavillion, and there will be a Carolina Windham as last year. The main organizer and coordinator for the local JOTA is Ken / KD6DBX email: carpenter.kendall@hq.dhs.gov Cellular: 571-228-2763. Last year, HF SSB and VHF FM were used as was Echolink when Internet connections could be obtained. At least the same modes will be used again this year. Individual callsigns are used, as there is no special event callsign. The OVH liaison is Scott / KB8NUM. For more information from the Boy Scouts of America organization: <http://www.scouting.org/JOTA.aspx> This will a fun event for the Boy Scouts as well as the others attending, plan or try to attend!

TRAINING / SEMINAR EVENTS:

Second Thursday evening each month, AMRAD meetings, McLean, Va. - see amrad.org for details.

September 11, 2014, Thursday meeting at 7:30 pm, Brennan Price, N4QX, Chief Technology Officer of the ARRL, will provide a briefing on the upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference.

OPERATING CONTESTS:

Information about many other operating contests almost every weekend and each month can be found on the WA7BNM's excellent web at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal>

PUBLIC SERVICE / TRAINING / ARES EVENTS

Always check the online Calendar by David / KG4GIY at <http://www.pwcares.org> for the latest updates. David maintains a comprehensive calendar for upcoming events at that web site. Complete direct contact information for David appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

LEARNING CW - MORSE CODE - PART I - INITIAL LEARNING

Morgan / KI4OWG recently put a query out on the OVH email reflector for information and comments about learning Morse Code. He has spent a lot of time developing an iOS app which runs on the iPhone and iPad, Morse Elmer, to assist in learning Morse Code. I have not used Morse Elmer because I learned Morse Code long ago; nevertheless, I will offer my two cents in several articles in successive issues of the OVH Newsletter which hopefully will be helpful for anyone who wants to learn and become proficient with Morse Code.

My first encounter with Morse Code was in the early 1950's as a young kid, we would visit the village of Good Spring, Pennsylvania where my father grew up, population about 100. Back then Good Spring still had a small railroad station with a loading platform, mostly for cargo; my father's cousin was the station master so we visited there often. The station had a Morse code position with a telegraph key and sounder/clickers. Sometimes when visiting, the clickers would sound and my father's cousin would hurry over to the Morse code position, throw switches and begin keying, to write down or send a message, all with loud click click click sounds. The messages usually related to traffic on the rail line. This was part of how the railway then worked and made quite an impression on a young kid, especially when a steam locomotive powered train would arrive a short while later.

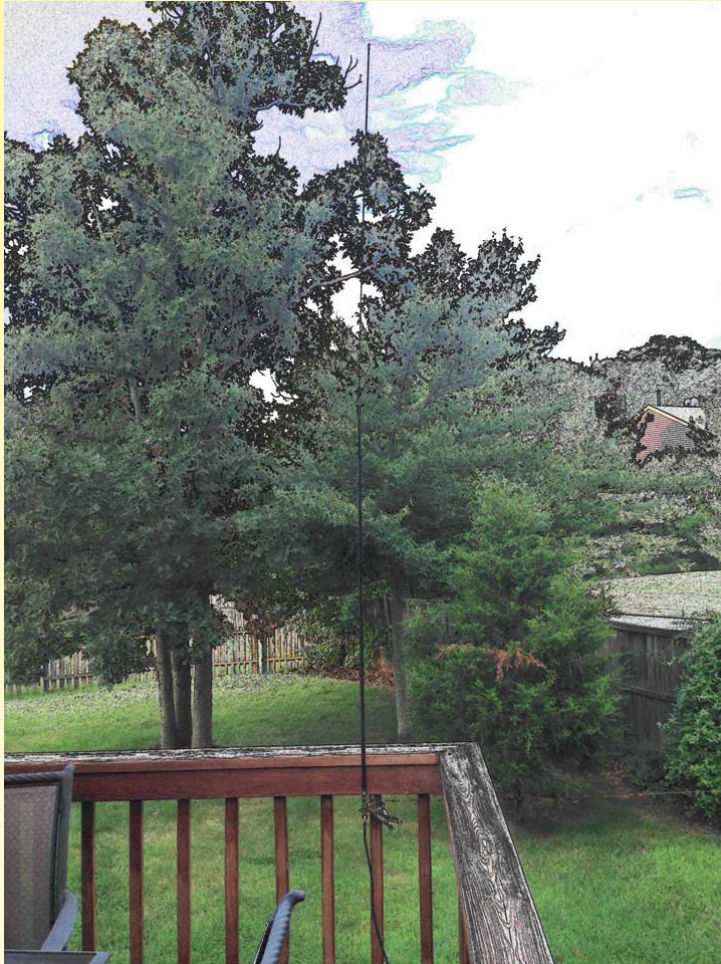
Fast forward to Boy Scout age; the First Class Boy Scout rank required learning Morse Code well enough at least to write out and decode messages with Morse Code symbols. That just required memorization of the dot and dash symbols, not too hard because there were only about 40 symbols to learn, and some of them such as the numbers were very easy to remember when written. A couple year later, still a Boy Scout, I went to the 1960 National Jamboree near Colorado Springs, while there I visited the ham radio station, K2BSA/0 several times; it had been set up and was actively operating and making contacts all over the USA on AM voice and also using CW (Morse Code). The CW operators were making the most contacts with great apparent ease.

A few months after I got back from that summer trip, I decided it was time to learn Morse Code and get a ham radio operators license. To do that, I first got a 33 rpm record with a "How to teach yourself Morse Code" course on the record and a thin booklet explaining what you needed to do. The course required you to first learn all of the dot (dit) only symbols (E I S H 5). Then the record played a bunch of practice sequences using just those few symbols, probably at 10 words per minute, but with much longer spaces between the symbols. Within a few days of practice (10 to 20 minutes per day), I could copy the practice sequences perfectly. The course recommended no more than 20 minutes of practice per day to avoid frustration. Next you had to learn the dash (dah) only symbols (T M O 0). Then there were more practice sequences just with those symbols, after a few days, I could copy those practice sequences perfectly too. This was similar (by analogy) to how touch typing had been taught when I was in the 8th grade the previous year, was only slightly more difficult. Next there were more practice sequences mixing up the dit only and the dah only sequences. This was much more difficult initially, but after a few more days of practice, it was possible to copy these practice sequences too. Next was the dit followed dah(s) symbols (A W J 1), and more practice sequences, then more combined practice sequences for all symbols learned so far. Then more of the same for the rest of the symbols, etc., etc.

After a few more weeks of daily practice, 10 to 20 minutes each day, regular review of the course brochure and listening to the record, and writing down practice sequences heard from the record, I was able to copy CW at very slow speed, probably about 5 words per minute. The next step for me was to listen to real CW on the air with a shortwave receiver; back then the HF Novice ham bands teemed with slow speed Morse Code activity. Even though a lot of the Novice band code was not well sent with hand keys, listening to it provided a very realistic source for practice copy. I quickly learned to identify and pick out CQ and DE sequences followed by callsigns; CQ and DE were heard so much they started to have their own combined sounds, but the trick initially was to learn to copy the full callsign of each sender. That took practice and more practice. Back then most of the callsigns on the Novice bands started with K followed by N followed by a number and then three more letters. I did a lot of listening, 10 to 20 minutes per day for a few more weeks.

Before the end of that year (1960) I had picked up an ARRL Handbook and an ARRL booklet on how to take and pass the Novice exam. I learned about W!AW's slow speed code practice sessions which sent text from recent QST articles; a local ham (W1DG sk) would lend me some of the recent QSTs so I could listen to well sent code from W1AW and follow along using QST. I found that type of practice very helpful.

Part II in the next month or two will address increasing CW copy speed, and learning to send CW.



New deck mounted
small Vertical Antenna
for the 10 Meter band
used by new OVH member
David / KK4ZUU
to make his first HF
voice contact on 9/6/2014!

(Note: image was Photoshoped
to make the Antenna stand out
better against the background)

Lucky guy David?

His first HF voice contact
was with a station
in California, proof that
that antenna really works
as does the 10 meter band
when it opens up.

Some Possibly Useful or Interesting Information

1. For hams who want to keep learning, the Austrian based Radio Documentation Archive Site, mentioned here before several times now has posted five Powerpoint with Audio presentations from the Ham Radio 2014 event held at Friedrichschafen, Germany in June. That is the second biggest hamfest in the world, in recent years only very slightly smaller than the Dayton Hamvention in Ohio. Four of the five presentations are in English; one of them is about the Enigma and other encryption machines and is by Tom / W1TP who has presented in the past at the Manassas Hamfest. Go to <http://www.dokufunk.org> to see these presentations.
2. Looking for more ham radio related webinars, go to <http://wwrof.org/category/webinar-archive> for a lengthy listing of “free” webinars provided by the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation.
3. The web site maintained by Tim / K3LR is extraordinary for its info about a HF superstations. Of course, K3LR is just such a superstation readily visible from the Pennsylvania Turnpike west of Pittsburgh. And Tim wants to spread the knowledge - he is a major organizer and presenter at the Dayton Hamvention for many years. Go to <http://www.k3lr.com/Dayton> to find and access Powerpoint related presentations from the past 10 years of the Dayton Hamvention.
4. RW4LR, a Russian ham, now offers a web site with world maps with selectable overlays for ITU and WAZ zones, DX countiers, etc. etc. This site is available in Russian and in English. Check out: <http://maps.kosmosnimki.ru/api/index.html?LDXND> Very useful stuff for those interested in DXing and similar activities.

A few photos snapped during a recent visit to N3KVV's QTH near Hegins, Pennsylvania. Part of a stockpile of WWII era radio equipment! See earlier pictures in the April 2014 OVH Newsletter.





The Birmingham News/Hal Yeager

Become a Ham Radio Operator

Get Your Technician Class License!

- Get on the air with Amateur Radio!
- Communicate across the country and around the world!

The Technician Class license is the first step in getting into the exciting world of Amateur Radio. Since the FCC has removed the Morse code testing requirement, getting your license is now even easier and faster!

The Ole Virginia Hams will be sponsoring a Technician Class training course beginning **September 30, 2014**. This course is **FREE** and open to all. Students provide their own course materials. Seating is limited, however, so sign up early!

Course textbook:

“The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual,” 3rd edition
 (for tests beginning July 1, 2014)
Published by ARRL – The National Association for Amateur Radio
 (formerly the American Radio Relay League)

The course will combine self-study with class instruction. Four (4) two-hour sessions will be held.

Session 1: Introduction, Equipment Definitions	Session 2: Basic Electricity, Signals and Waves
Session 3: Antennas, Transmitters, etc.	Session 4: Repeaters, Data Modes, Safety

Location: City of Manassas, Public Works Facility, 8500 Public Works Drive, Manassas, VA 20110

Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 (4 sessions: 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/28)

Time: Tuesday evenings, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

For more information:

Refer to The Ole Virginia Hams web page at www.w4ovh.net or contact Mark Braunstein, WA4KFZ at wa4kfz@cox.net for more details.

Sponsored by:

The Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
 PO Box 1255
 Manassas, VA 20108
www.w4ovh.net